

**The Graduate Student Assembly
University of Texas at Austin**

Authors: Alejandro Omidasalar, GSA Representative
Based upon G.R. 17 (S) 1 by:
Samantha Fuchs, GSA Representative
Gillian Grindstaff, GSA Representative
Kareem Mustafa, GSA Representative

Resolution: G.R. 17 (S) 7 - In Further Opposition to the Executive Order Denying Entry of Refugees, Dual Citizens, Green Card Holders, and Visa Holders of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, and Somalia into the United States

WHEREAS (1): The President of the United States signed an Executive Order on January 27th, 2017 banning travel of all immigrant and non-immigrant persons to the United States for 90 days, citing the need “to protect the American people from terrorist attacks by foreign nationals admitted to the United States;¹” and,

WHEREAS (2): This order was later clarified to refer to Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, and Somalia, seven countries with majority Muslim populations; the Order’s range of targeted nations “does not include any countries from which radicalized Muslims have actually killed Americans in the U.S. since Sept. 11, 2001;” and,

WHEREAS (3): This Order suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for 120 days in order for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security to adjust the application process, even though refugees attempting to settle in the U.S. are already subject to an extensive vetting process where they are “screened by the U.N. High Commission on Refugees [...], subject to vetting by the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI’s Terrorist Screening Center and the departments of State, Defense, and Homeland Security;¹” and,

WHEREAS (4): In a judicial ruling ordering a stay on the Order, District Judge Ann Donnelly states that the ban likely “violates their rights to Due Process and Equal Protection guaranteed by the United States Constitution” and that, should the ban continue, “there will be substantial and irreparable injury to refugees, visa-holders, and other individuals from nations subject to the January 27, 2017 Executive Order;²” and,

¹ <http://www.npr.org/2017/01/31/512439121/trumps-executive-order-on-immigration-annotated>

² <http://fortune.com/2017/01/28/read-the-full-text-of-the-judges-order-blocking-trumps-immigration-ban/>

WHEREAS (5): This Order bans travelers who have already obtained valid travel visas, including University students and researchers who must now choose between completing their degree or seeing their family, who cannot travel internationally to attend conferences, and prevents further international fellowships from beginning;³ and,

WHEREAS (6): Global collaboration is at the forefront of scientific innovation, such as in engineering, health, and medicine, which this Order now restricts;² and,

WHEREAS (7): The University of Texas at Austin has 110 students, faculty members, and scholars who are citizens of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, or Somalia, of which, 85 are graduate students holding student visas;⁴ and,

WHEREAS (8): President Fenves asserts that “we value a diverse community that includes all of us,” and that “the talents that brought [international scholars] to UT are deeply valued, and their perspectives represent an essential part of the university;⁵” and,

WHEREAS (9): The Graduate Student Assembly at The University of Texas at Austin passed a resolution (G.R. 17 (S) 1) opposing the Executive Order denying entry of persons from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, and Somalia; and,

WHEREAS (10): The Graduate Student Assembly asserted in the aforementioned resolution that the 85 graduate students among us from the aforementioned countries have a right to freely travel to and from our University and are not a national security threat; and,

WHEREAS (11): That restrictions on international travel, enrollment, and collaboration collectively harms the academic scholarship of all students and faculty at The University of Texas at Austin as well as poses a threat to the academic integrity of The University of Texas at Austin; and,

WHEREAS (12): That the Graduate Student Assembly at The University of Texas at Austin argued in the aforementioned resolution that the ban, should it continue being enforced, should expire after 90 days and not be reinstated due to the detrimental effects on immigrants and non-immigrants who have already legally secured their right to travel to the United States; now,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (1): That the Graduate Student Assembly calls on President Fenves to publicly and unequivocally denounce the Executive Order because it indiscriminately and unconstitutionally infringes upon the rights of foreign-born UT students,

³ <http://www.cnbc.com/2017/01/31/travel-ban-throws-research-academic-exchange-into-turmoil.html>

⁴ Teri Albrecht, Ph.D., Director, International Student & Scholar Services

⁵ Gregory L. Fenves, President, University of Texas at Austin, <http://president.utexas.edu/messages/recent-executive-order>

staff, and faculty, and places needless and unjust restrictions upon the educations of all UT students, regardless of nationality, by interfering with the well-being and academic work of valued members of UT's educational community; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (2): That the Graduate Student Assembly asks that President Fenves respond by April 1st, 2017; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (3): That copies of this resolution be delivered to the Board of Regents, the Office of the Chancellor, the Office of the President, the Office of Executive Vice President and Provost, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Department of Diversity and Community Engagement, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of Admissions, the Office of the Vice President of Legal Affairs, The Austin American-Statesman, The Austin Chronicle, The Texas Tribune, and The Daily Texan.